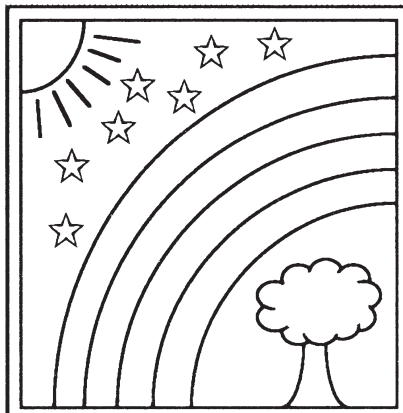


To: _____

(Write your name here)

"The Gift of
Creation"



CHAPTER ONE

In the beginning . . .

God created the heavens and the earth.

Darkness was everywhere.

The earth had no shape.

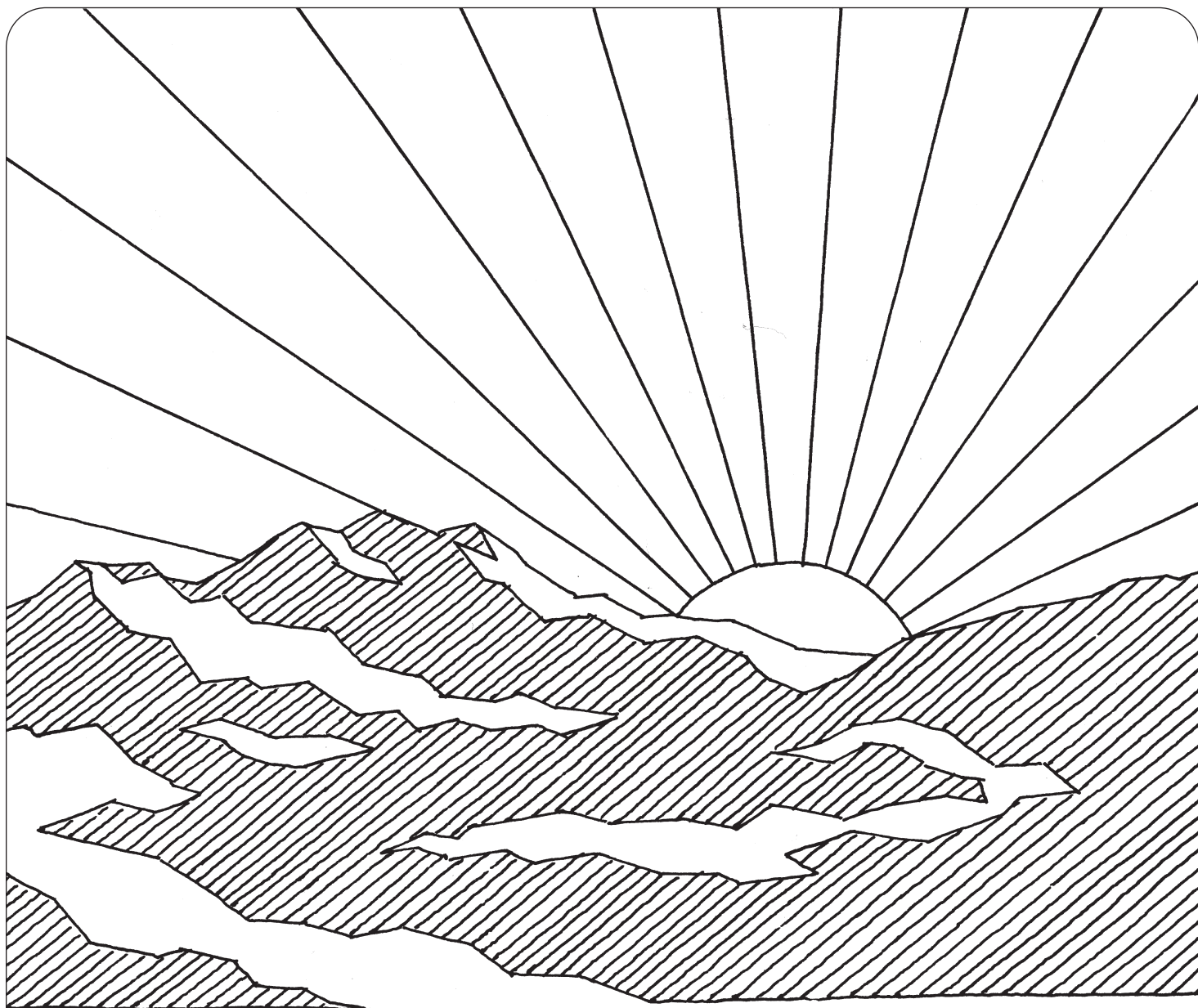
There were no sounds. Just silence.

Then God breathed out

over the stillness of the deep.

And God began to speak.





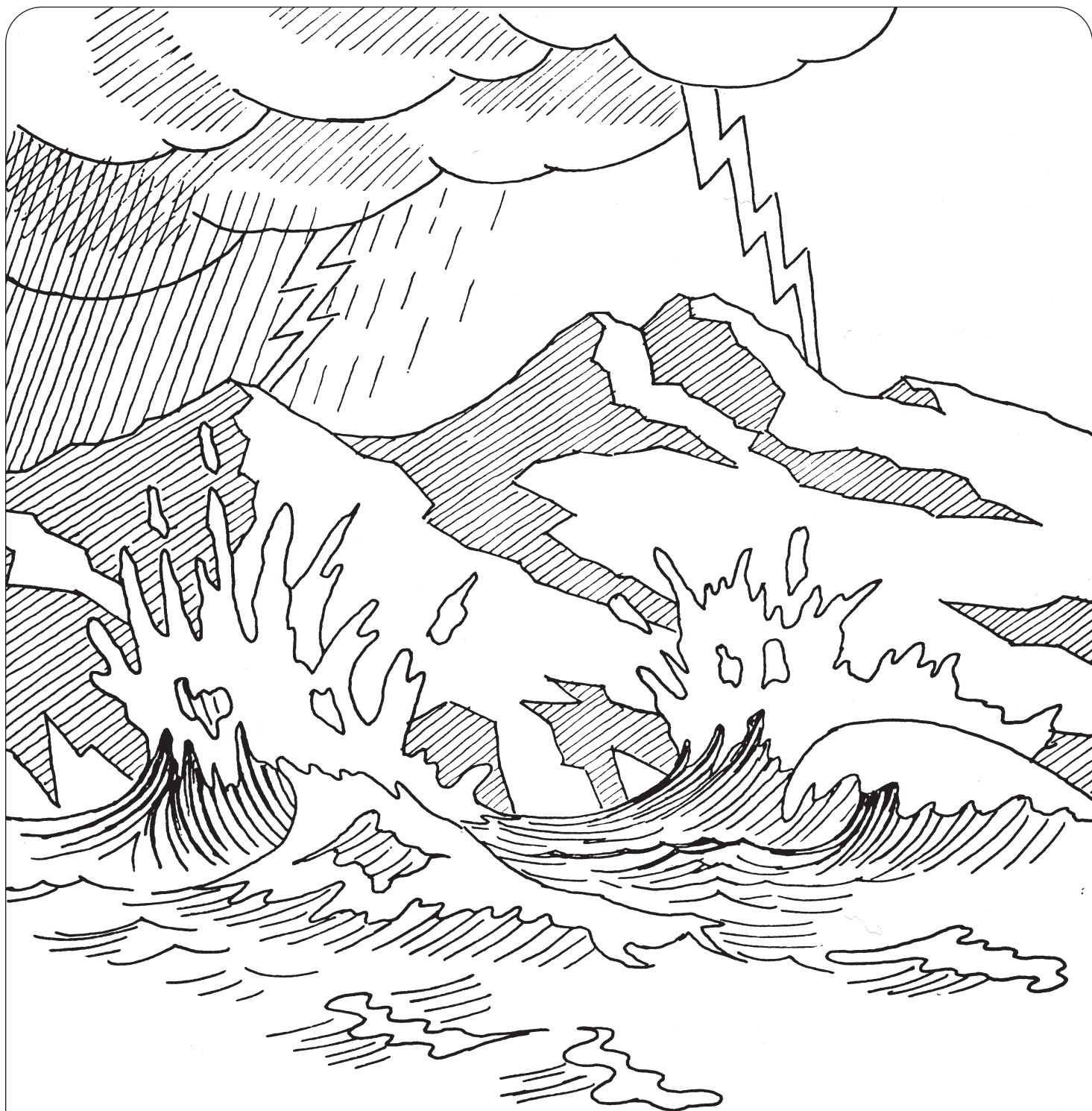
"Let there be light!"

God said. And there was light!

God separated the light from the darkness.

God called
the light
"Day."

God called
the darkness
"Night."



Then God said, “Let all the waters flow into separate places with dry land in between.” The waters obeyed and the land rose up into mountains and valleys.

God called the dry land *earth*. God called the water *seas*.

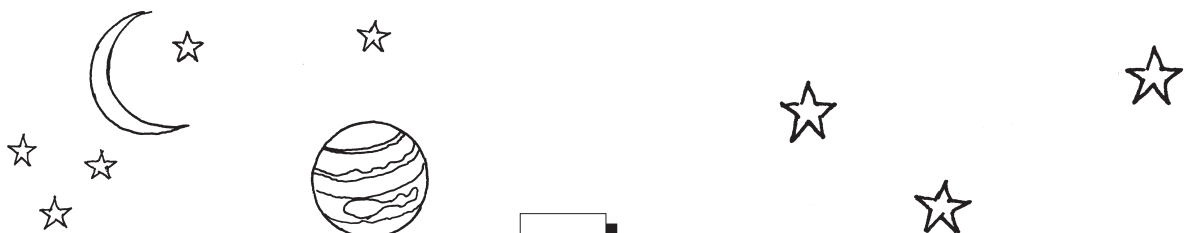




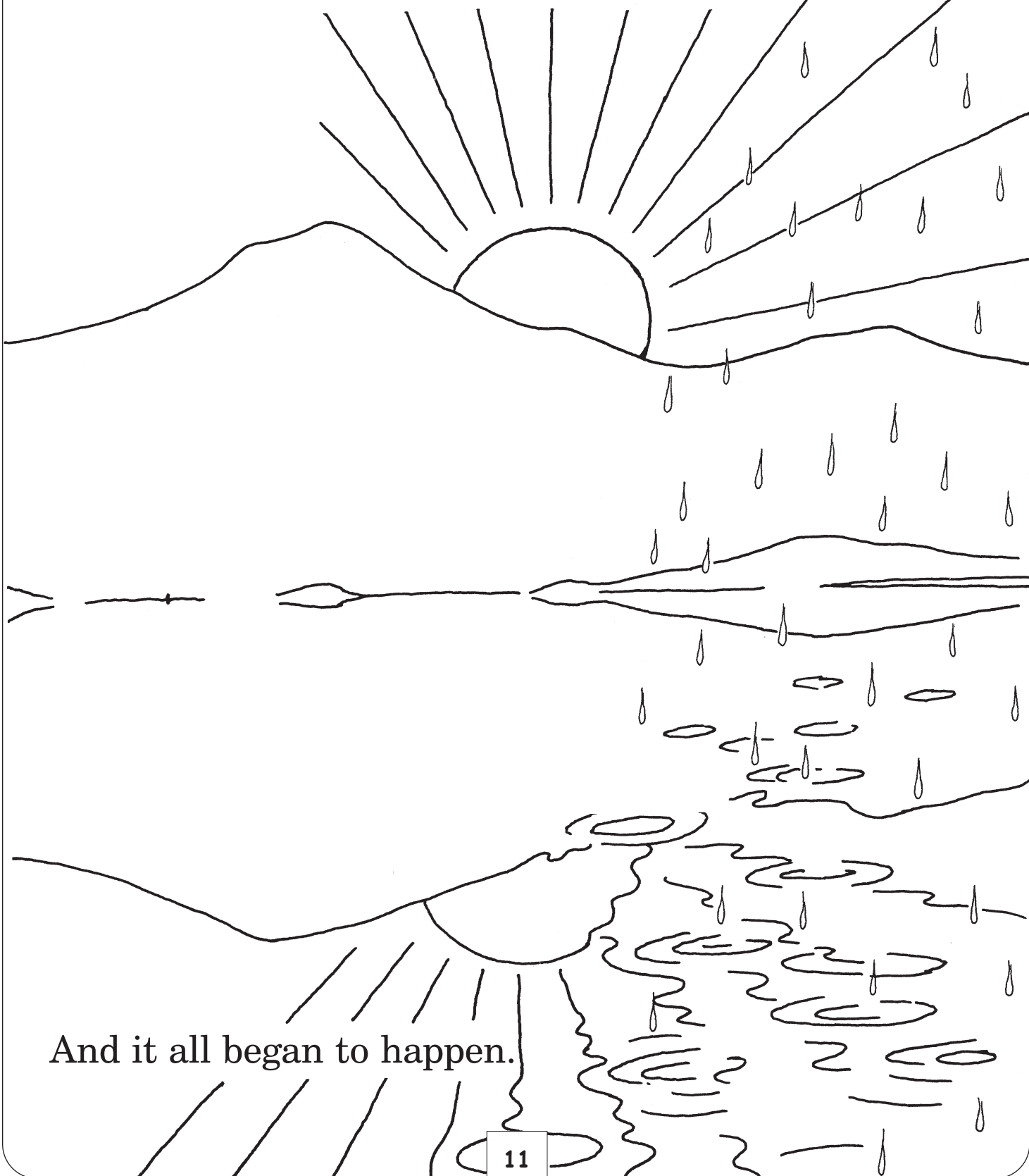
God called the open space everywhere *the sky*.

“Let there be two great lights in the sky,” God said.

“Let the greater light rule the day. Let the lesser light rule the night.”



Then God said, "Let the land be watered and grow with plants and flowers. Let great trees grow with fruit that have many kinds of seeds."



And it all began to happen.

The world grew with endless *life*.



When God spoke, it came to be.

“Let birds fly and soar in the sky,” God said.

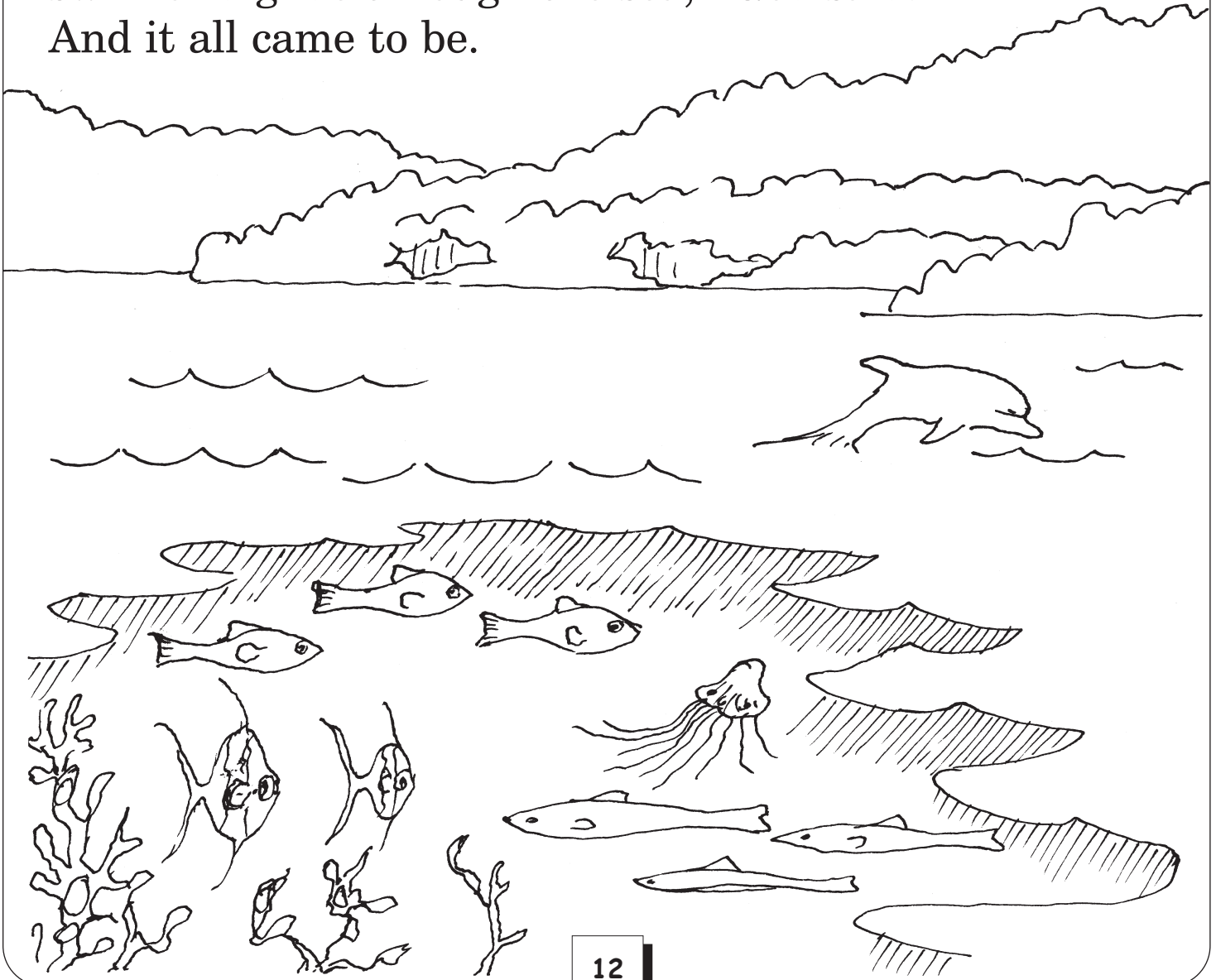
And it happened.

“Let the land be filled with creatures — some that walk, some that crawl,” God said.

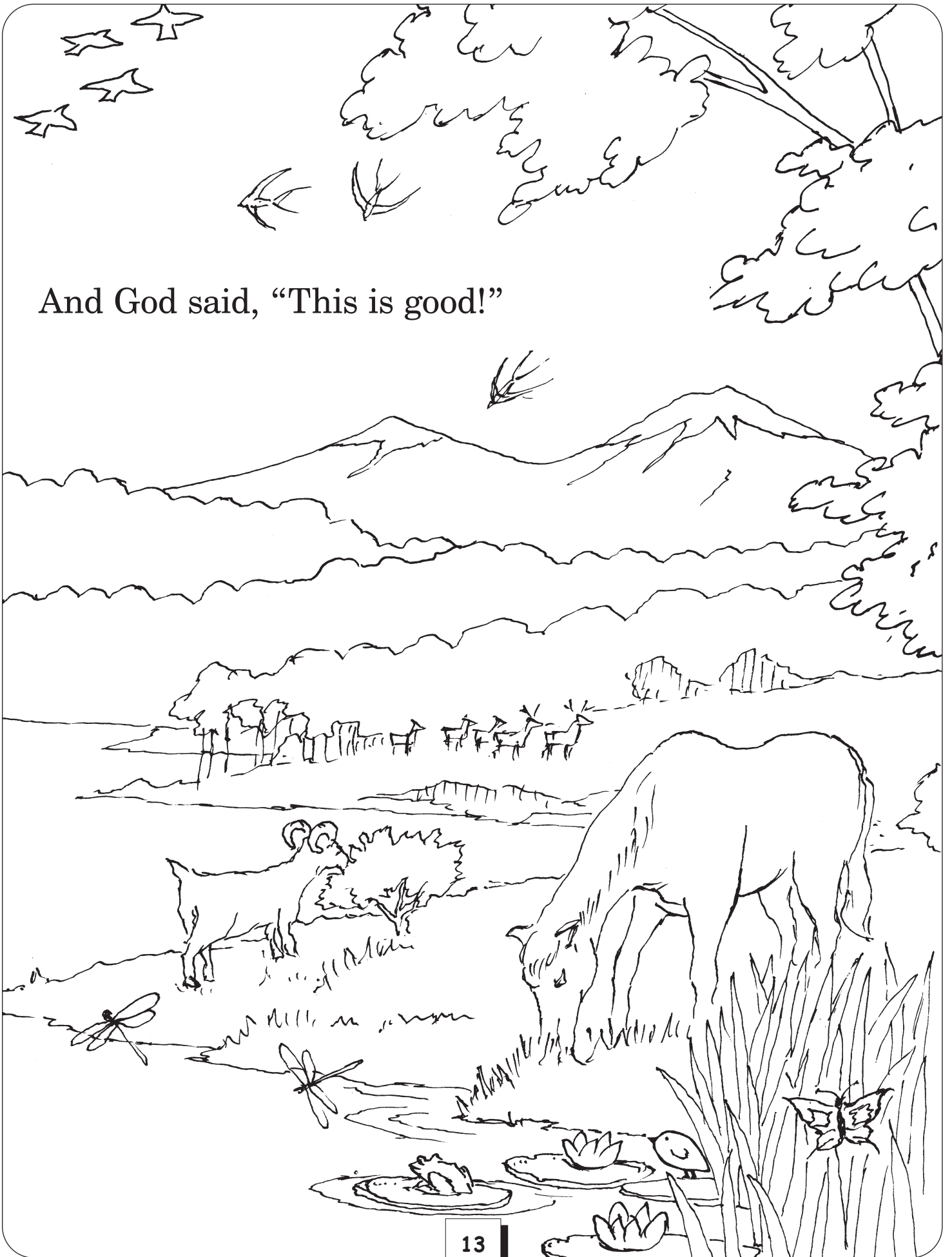
And it happened.

“Let the waters come alive with fish that swim and glide through the sea,” God said.

And it all came to be.



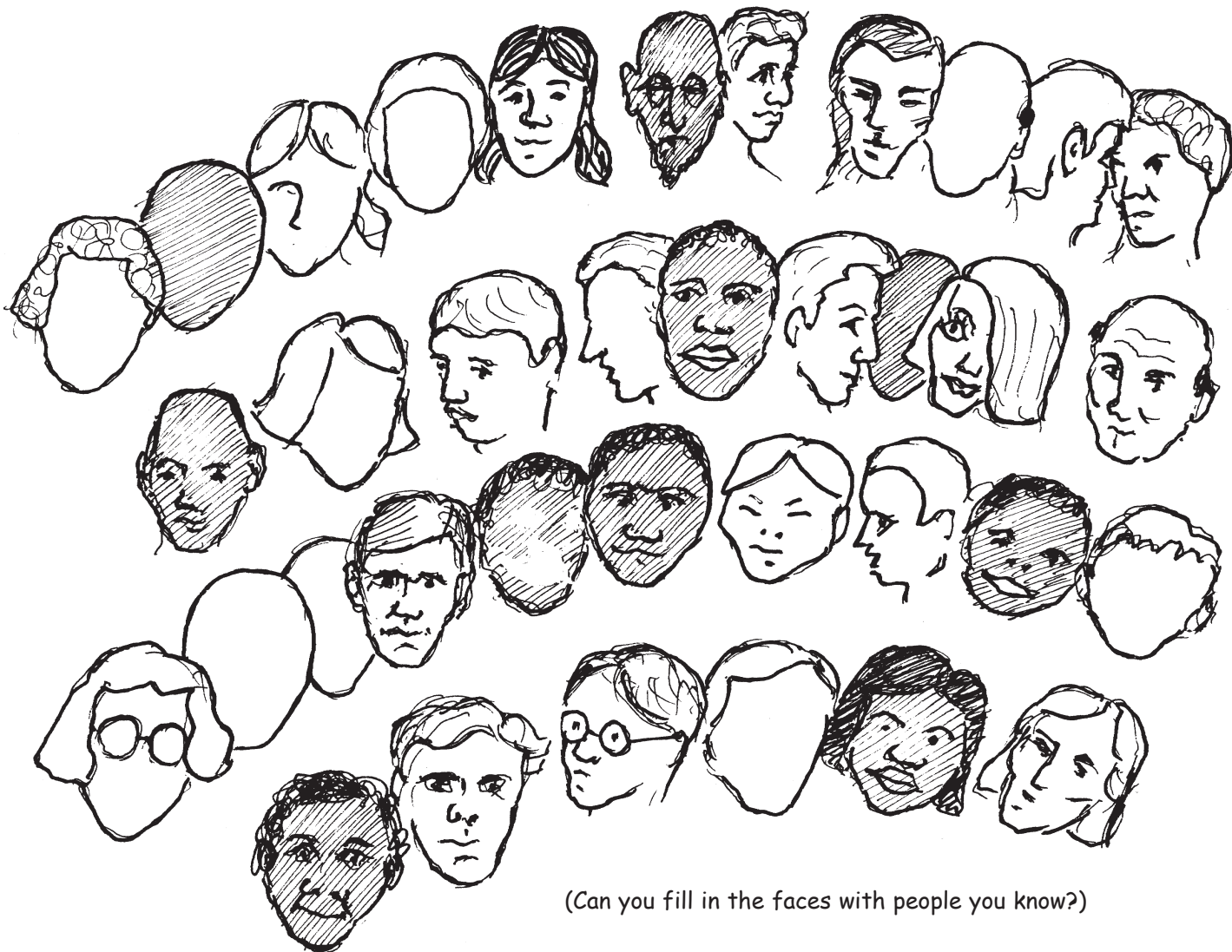
And God said, "This is good!"



Then God said, “Let us make man and woman. Let us make them in our own image.” So God made the first man and woman. And there came to be many, many

PEOPLE

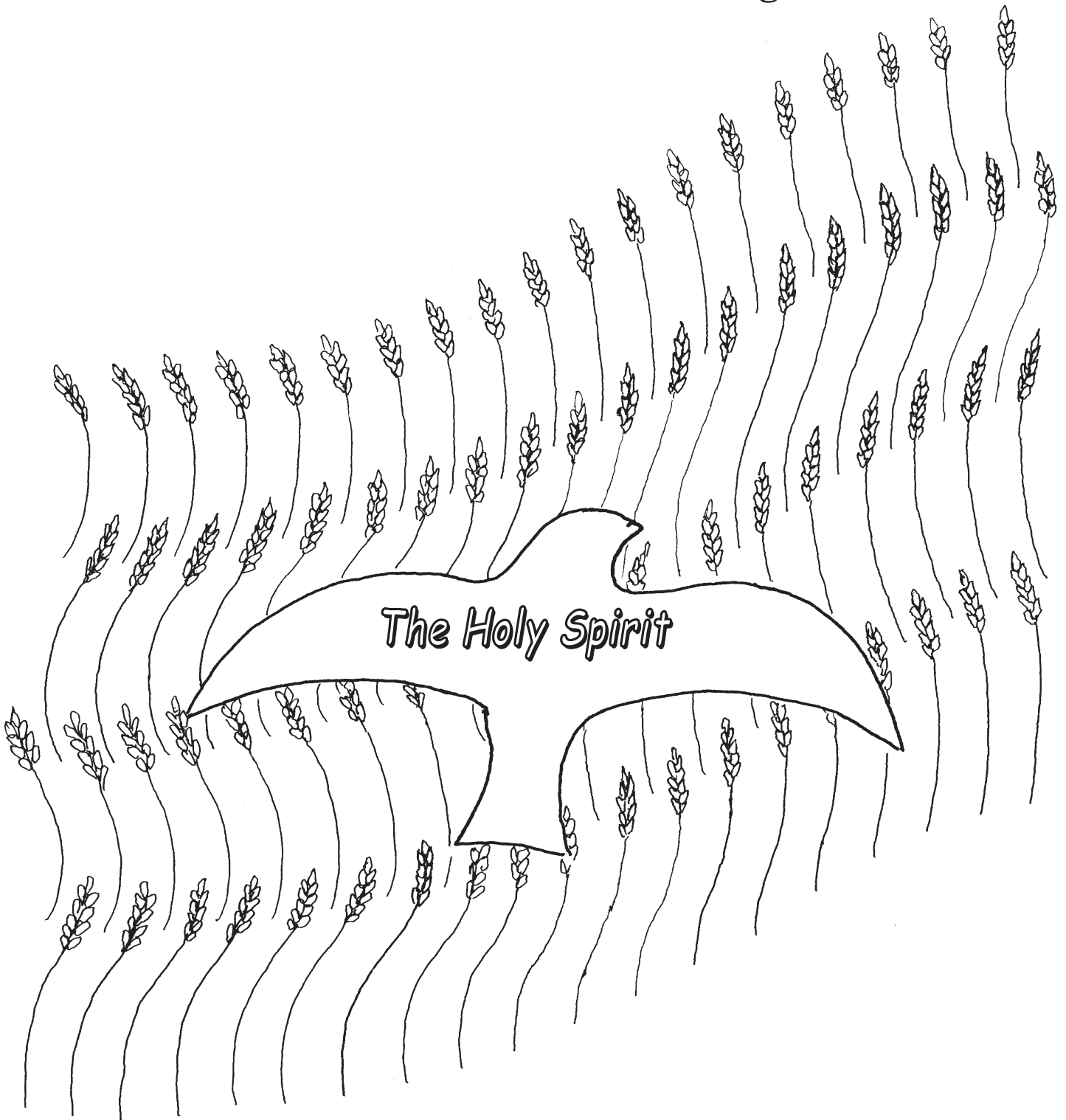
— all different kinds — each one in God’s own likeness.



. . . And each breathing the breath of God’s own life!
Then God said,

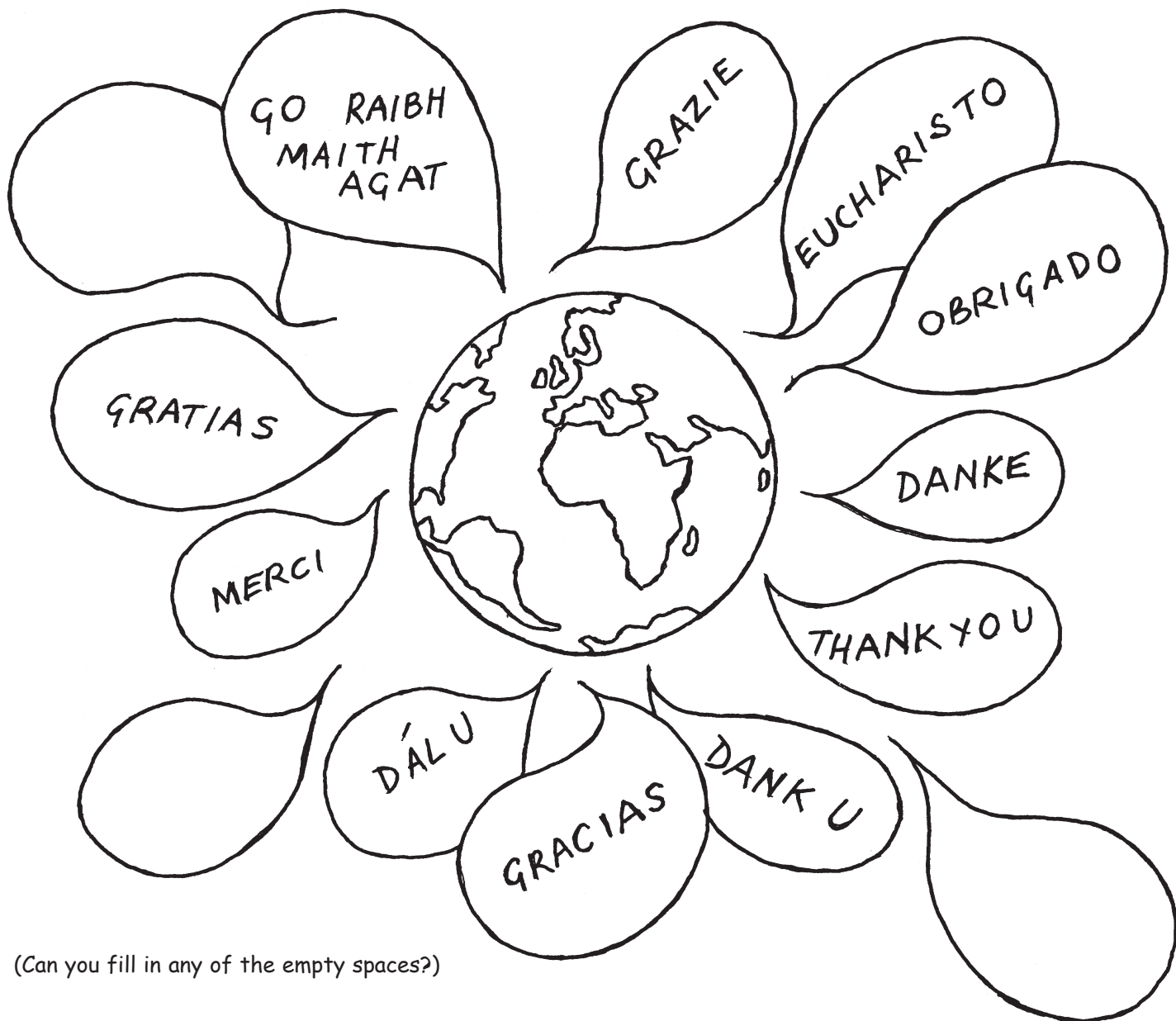
“This is very good!”

So to this day, the breath of God's own life and love moves in us and around creation like a gentle breeze.



Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the work of God's hands is the work of our hearts and hands.

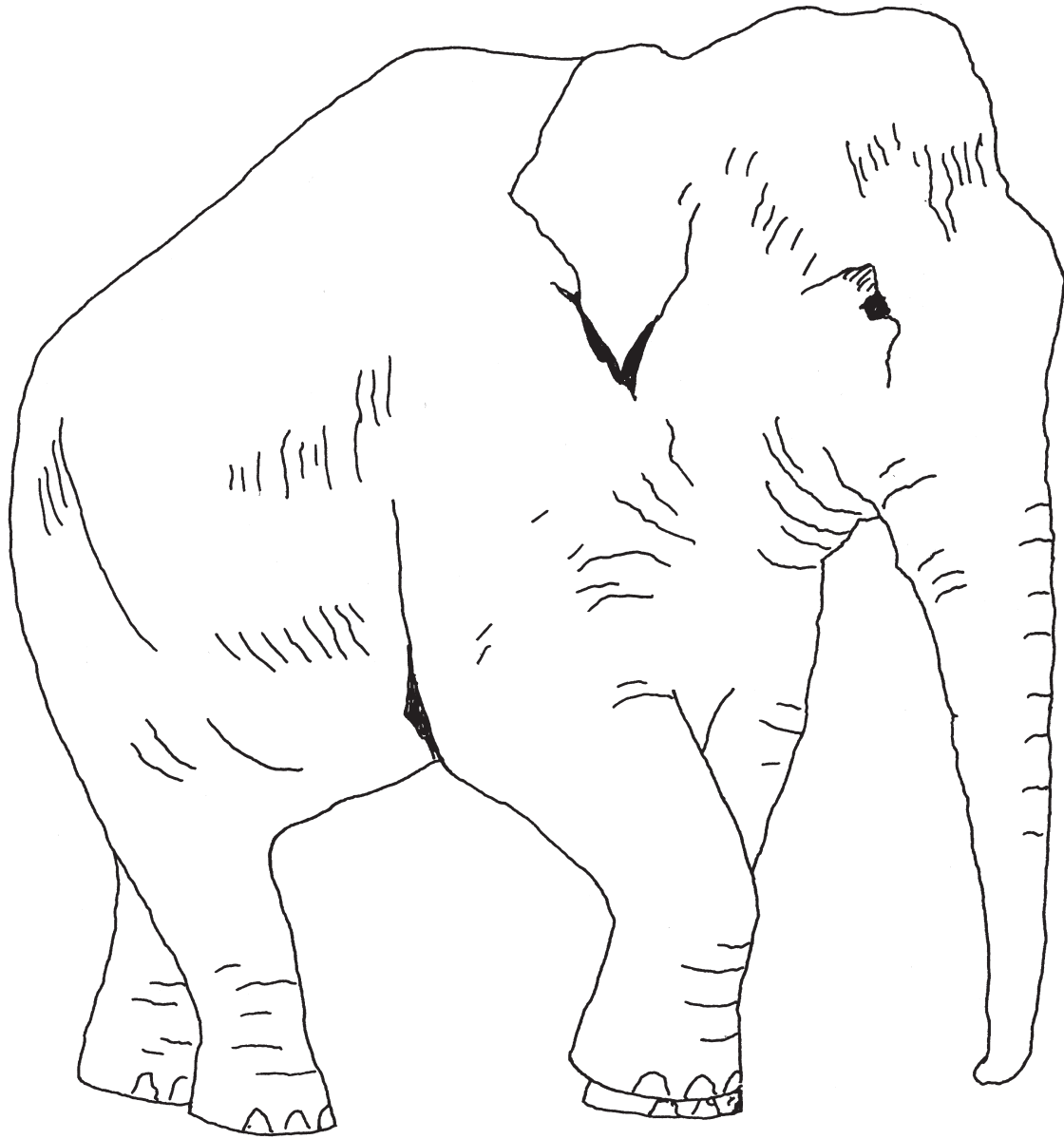
*All the world tells
the story and glory of God!*



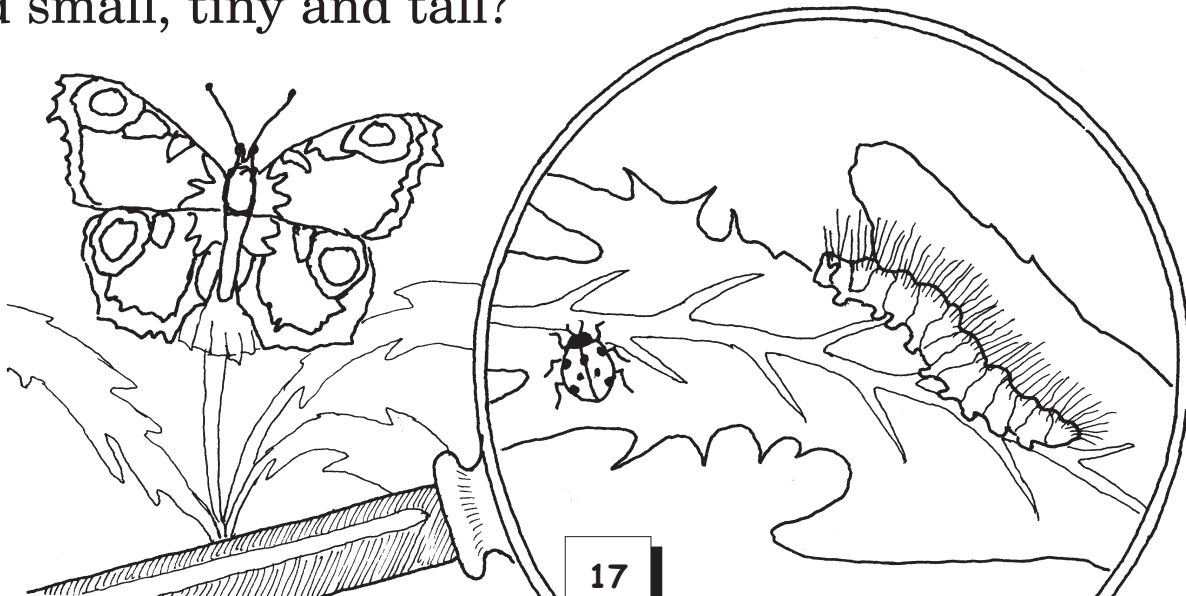
(Can you fill in any of the empty spaces?)

*Let us give thanks
and praise to God!*

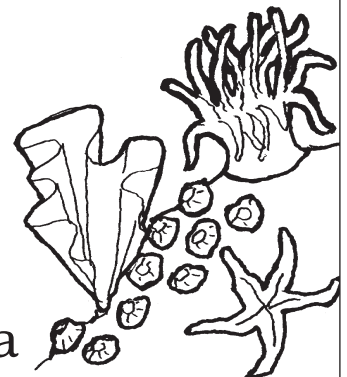
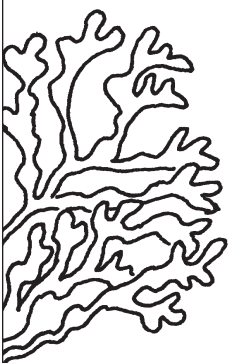
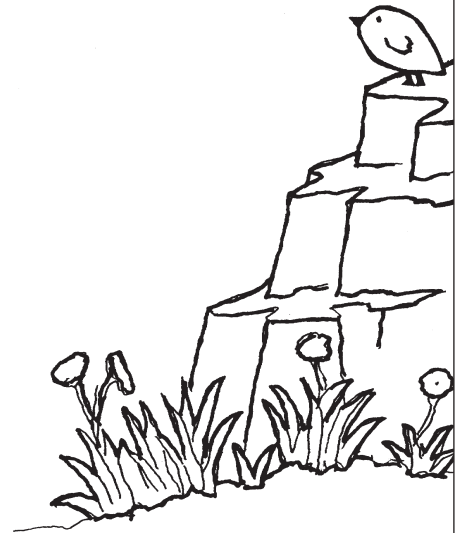
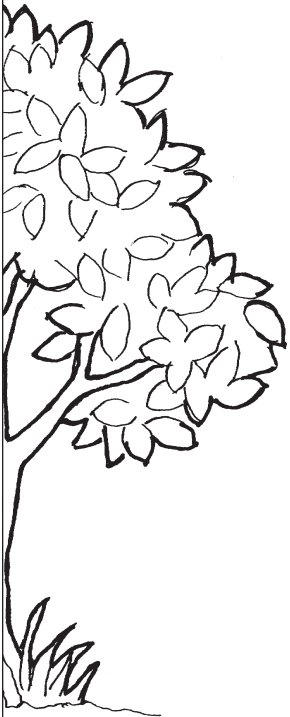
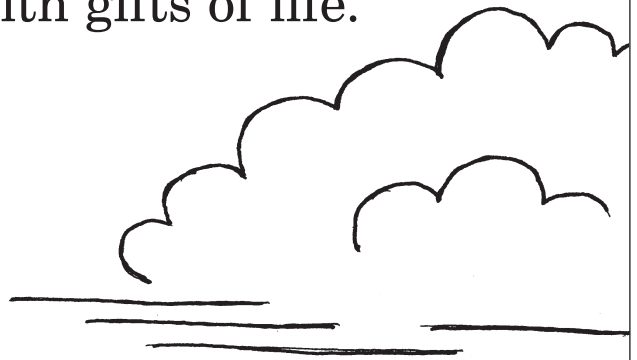
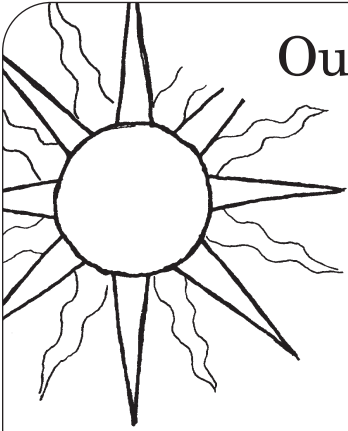




How can you care for God's grand creatures, both large and small, tiny and tall?



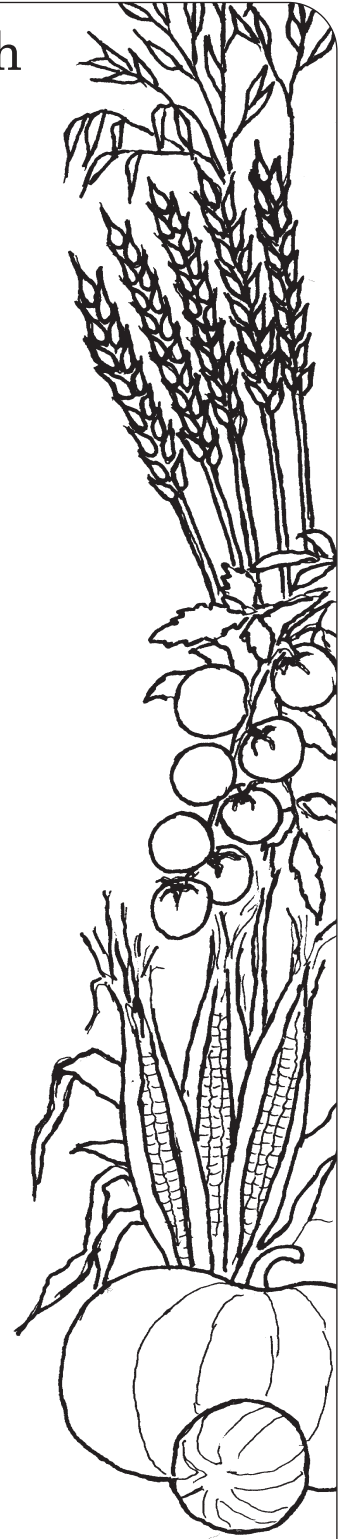
Our world overflows with gifts of life.



Fill the sky, the land, and the sea with your favorite creatures.

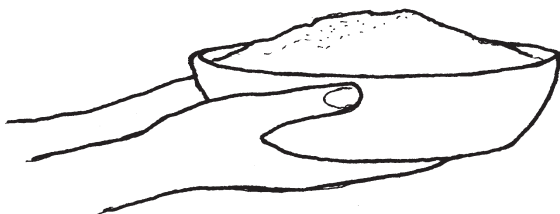
(Draw pictures or use magazine photos.)

God has made the earth rich with
food for us to raise and harvest.



There is plenty of food for everyone, if we share it.


(Fill this page with your favorite foods and ways to share it with others.)



This is our world and I love it.



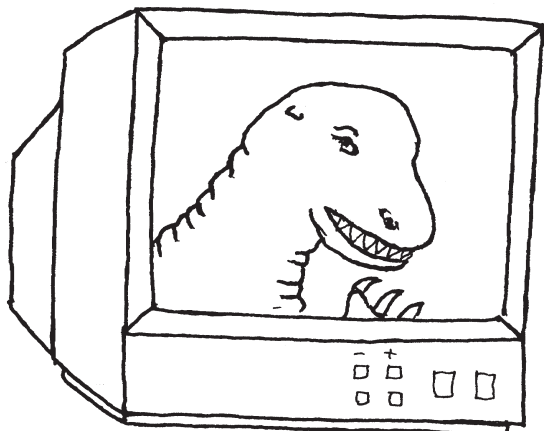
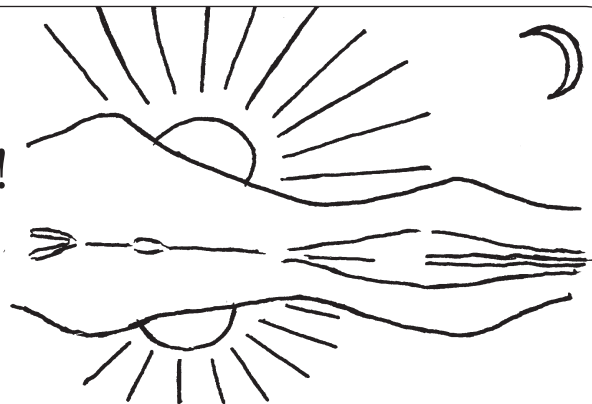
Here is my prayer to God about Creation.



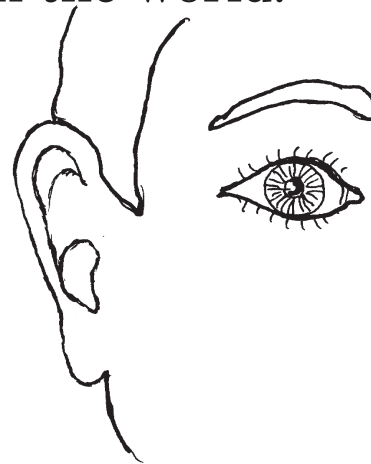
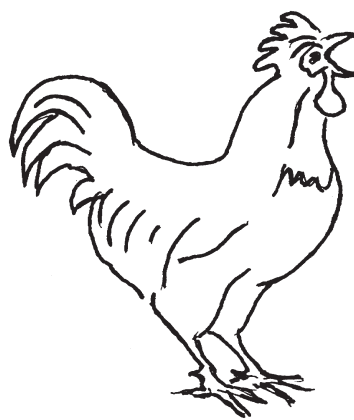


God of Creation,

we praise you!



Thank you for the gifts you give us — to discover and to share the wonders you have hidden in the world.



How wonderfully you have made each of us! Guide us to see your way of caring for the world. Thank you!

(See the next page for *A Very Special Gift from God.*)

